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DE RUEHLM #1140 3520833  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9063  
INFO RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 4615  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 2468  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0189  
RUEHDE/AMCONSUL DUBAI 0161  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 3063  
RUEHUNV/USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA 0057  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0865

UNCLAS COLOMBO 001140

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR DRL/MLGA (SICADE) AND IO/RHS (OSTERMEIER)

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [UNGA](#) [MV](#) [CE](#)

SUBJECT: IRAN VOTE: DEMARCHE TO MALDIVES

REF: A. SECSTATE 130796

[1](#)B. SECSTATE 131204

[1](#)1. (SBU) On December 16, 2008, Ambassador conveyed ref A letter from Secretary Rice to Foreign Minister Shaheed thanking him for Maldives' helpful shift in stance on the Third Committee resolution in Iran (and the associated no-action motion). Ambassador requested that Maldives vote in accordance with the U.S. positions when these actions reach the UNGA plenary (ref b), or at a minimum, abstain or be absent for the votes. Ambassador plans to take up the matter in person with Minister of State Ahmed Naseem in Male on December 17.

[1](#)2. (SBU) Sri Lankan Foreign Ministry interlocutors have made it clear that there is no possibility of a change in Sri Lanka's position on the Iran resolution. Embassy therefore did not carry our ref b demarche to Sri Lanka.  
Blake